Atty. Docket No. BEN02 P-345 Express Mail No. EL670821812US

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper, together with all enclosures identified herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

7-19-01

Date

pullaction !

Debra L. Cooper

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant** 

John P. Biel, Jr. et al.

International Appln. No. International Filing Date

PCT/US00/01499 21 January 2000

For

VACUUM-INSULATED EXHAUST TREATMENT

DEVICE WITH RADIALLY-EXTENDING SUPPORT

**STRUCTURES** 

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** 

**Box PCT** 

Washington, DC 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## In the claims:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice. (Please note that claim 24 is already canceled.)

Please amend claims 2, 5, 7-9, 11-14, and 16-17, and add new claim 25, as follows:

2. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes having a cross section chosen to provide strength to hold the inner housing in the outer housing without permitting contact between the inner and outer housings, but further being sized to minimize conductive heat loss through the spokes from the inner housings to the outer housings.